hotels in general and the hotel in Central Bombay in particular?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism has a scheme of approval of hotels and restaurants and one of the requirements is clearance of the establishments in respect of fire fighting arrangements issued by the concerned fire service authorities.

Mriganani Restaurant in Dharavi, Bombay is not on the approved list of the Department of Tourism. It has been ascertained from the Maharashtra Government that 22 persons died in a fire caused by gas leak in this restaurant and a police complaint was lodged under the Explosives Act against the owner, manager and the contractor of the restaurant who have been arrested, and the investigation continues.

Collaboration with foreign companies

2709. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collaboration of certain foreign companies/individuals etc. in ITDC Hotel activities, guarantees that profitability, productivity and business activities will get the desired momentum there; and

(b) how much have been gained by ITDC with such collaboration with M/s. Raddison Hotel Co. of USA in the past *vis-a-vis* the expenditure borne by ITDC on their behalf during the currency of ITDC agreement with M/s. Radisson in the past?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. However, the purpose of collaboration was to increase profitability and productivity of hotel business of ITDC.

(b) ITDC's collaboration with M/s. Radisson Hotel Corporation of USA (RHC) included four hotels of the Corporation. ITDC paid an amount of Rs. 20.94 lakhs to M/s. Radisson. The gains to ITDC include business of about Rs. 0.32 lakhs, training provided by M/s. Radisson to ITDC Executives in its hotels in USA and other marketing efforts which would be difficult to quantify in terms of money.

Air taxi operator to become member of I.A.T.A.

2710. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation had recently recommended any private air taxi operator to become member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA);

(b) if so, whether non scheduled operators including air taxi operators are entitled for the membership of IATA;

(c) whether Government have brought to the attention of the IATA that the private taxi operator M/s. East West Airlines based in Bombay do not have their own aircraft and that aircraft operated by them are leased aircraft; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Adequate engineering facilities for Air taxi operators

2711. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private air taxi operators in the country are adequately provided with engineering facilities for under taking maintenance and overhaul and checks to be carried out in accordance with the provisions contained in the Indian Aircraft Act, Rules and mandatory circulars issued by Director General Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and